

Dear Fr. Aloysius,

I am wishing you all peace and happiness in the Christmas holiday. Here all goes well and we are growing each day in the love of God and the renunciation of the things of the world.

The reception of the habits went well and we were all filled with joy. At each step I am suffused with wonder as I enter more & more deeply into this mysterious life of love to which God has called me. Now my heart anticipates that day not so far off when I will be able to take those vows that will initiate the beginning of heaven for me.

God has called me slowly but surely along the path he has chosen all under our gracious Lady's guidance & protection. First to be a Christian, then to the religious vocation, then to the holy priesthood. At each step God has given me knowledge of these exalted states so as to wean me away from my imperfect life, & as I have accepted his invitation, though often slowly & reluctantly, he has given me strength to accept & carry out his will.

Now finally he has given me the immense desire to be a missionary and to traverse the entire world hunting for souls. And with this desire & my submission to it I feel my groans & inequalities fall away & great strength from God come upon me. Certainly I am still a child with countless imperfections but I cannot but believe that he has called me from my birth to be a spokesman for him over the whole earth. I wish to be like St. Anthony Mary Clarel. First a perfect contemplative & from that a perfect missionary in imitation of Christ & the Apostles. May our Mother, Queen of the Apostles grant me this grace.

I received this light of grace on the feast of St. Francis Xavier. In seeking
Road for meditation I opened the breviary & my eyes fell on the versicle for
~~the office~~ the oficio de lectura.

"Recibiréis la fortaleza del Espíritu Santo, que descenderá
sobre vosotros; y seréis mis testigos hasta los últimos confines de la
tierra."

My soul burned & finally I ceased to resist God's invitation to this
life of great hardships & trials. I know quite fully that the life of the
missionary, wandering to the farthest reaches of the earth is essential to
my sanctification.

It is my firm belief that we will, in the future, extend to Russia
& Siberia & China in completion of the work of St. Francis Xavier as
the arms of the Blessed Mother.

When, before you called me, I had thoughts of being a Carmelite I was
attracted to their life of perfect contemplation & renunciation, their life
of immense solitude. But even if they had been in the flame of their
fervor still I could never have joined them. For there was still a
hunger in my life unfulfilled. The hunger to be a missionary. May God
be praised who has granted me all!

I know that I will never have an earthly home but will travel the
globe in labor for souls. Yet my home even now is opening for me. The Blessed
Trinity in the depth of my soul is my only home. I wish to labor for the
honor & glory of the Blessed Trinity until my dying breath & even beyond until
the end of time.